A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!

MARVEL®

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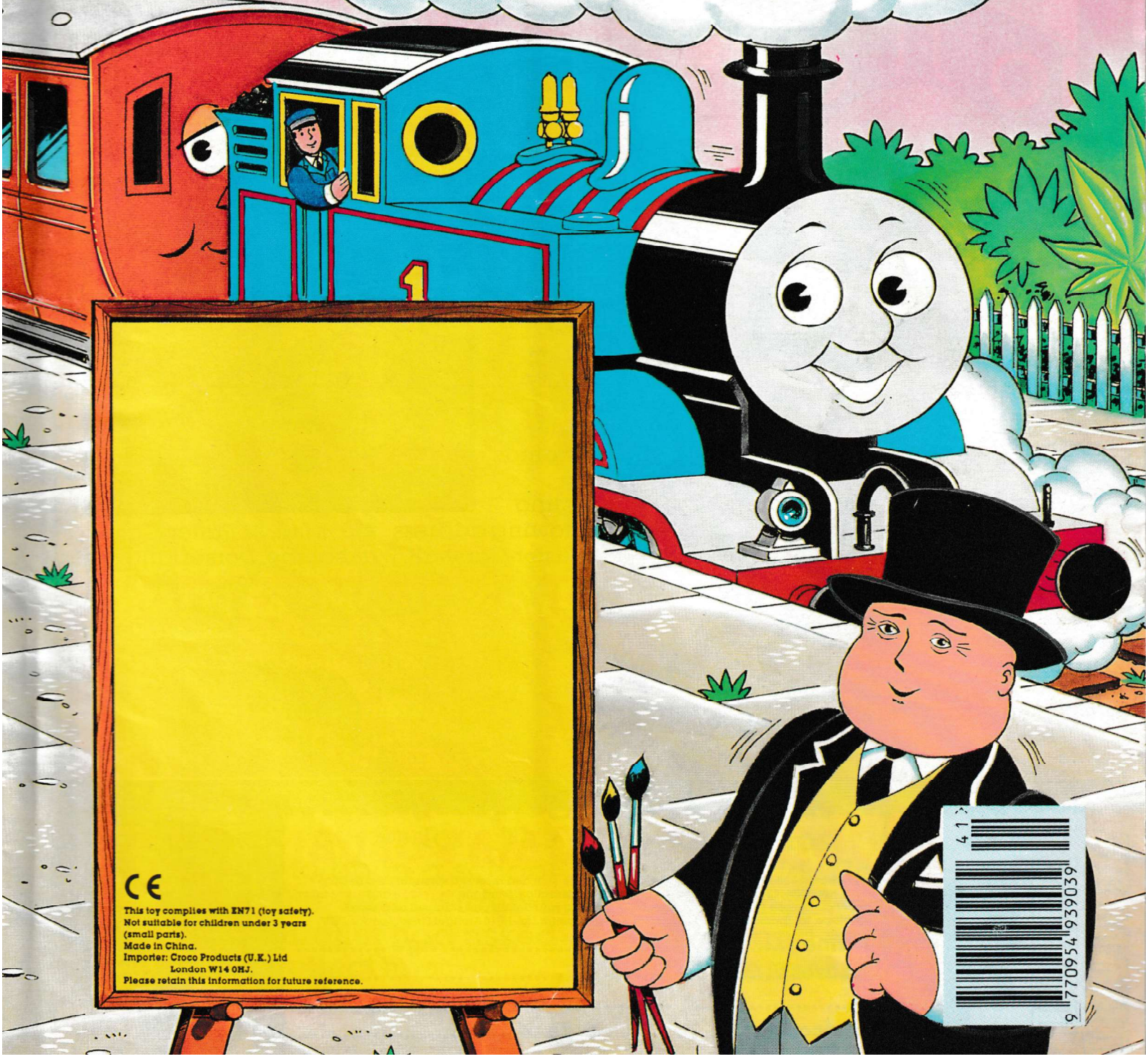
12th Oct.1991
No.104 55p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



CE

This toy complies with EN71 (toy safety).
Not suitable for children under 3 years (small parts).
Made in China.
Importer: Croco Products (U.K.) Ltd
London W14 0HJ.
Please retain this information for future reference.

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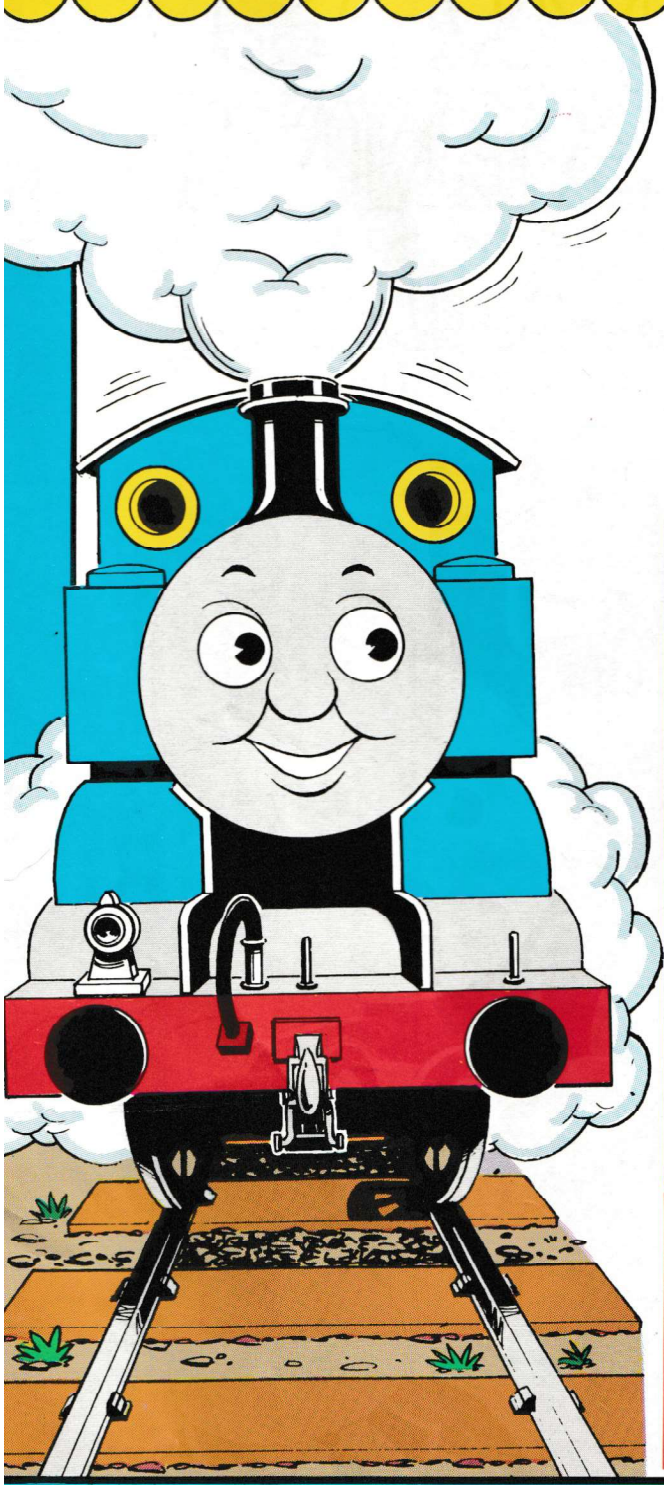
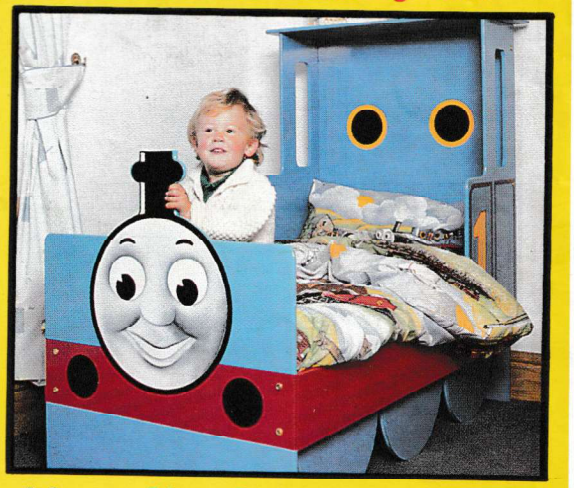
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! Gordon thinks that he is the most important engine on the Island of Sodor because he often pulls the Express! One day there is a splendid fête on the Island of Sodor and Gordon is specially asked to collect the Mayor of Sodor! Gordon starts his journey but soon discovers that there is a broken rail on the Main line. He cannot continue his journey! Who will now take the Mayor to the fête? You can find out when you read the story that begins on the next page! Peep! Peep!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

In our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, you can be the proud winner of one of these splendid Thomas beds from *AJAYS LTD*! You can also order your Thomas bed by contacting the following address: *Ajays Ltd, 21 Bailey Gate, Sturminster Marshall, Wimbourne, Dorset BH21 4DB.*



EXCITING COMPETITION!

In this exciting issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** you have another great chance to win a super general selection of toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd*, including a **Thomas remote control engine** and a **Thomas**, **James** and **Henry** 3-piece diecast set! Turn to page **7** for details!

THOMAS TOKEN

JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB!

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one adjacent to this section. Send one **red**, **yellow** and **green** token together with one completed coupon (below), listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Name ..... **Age** .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode..... **Date of birth**.....

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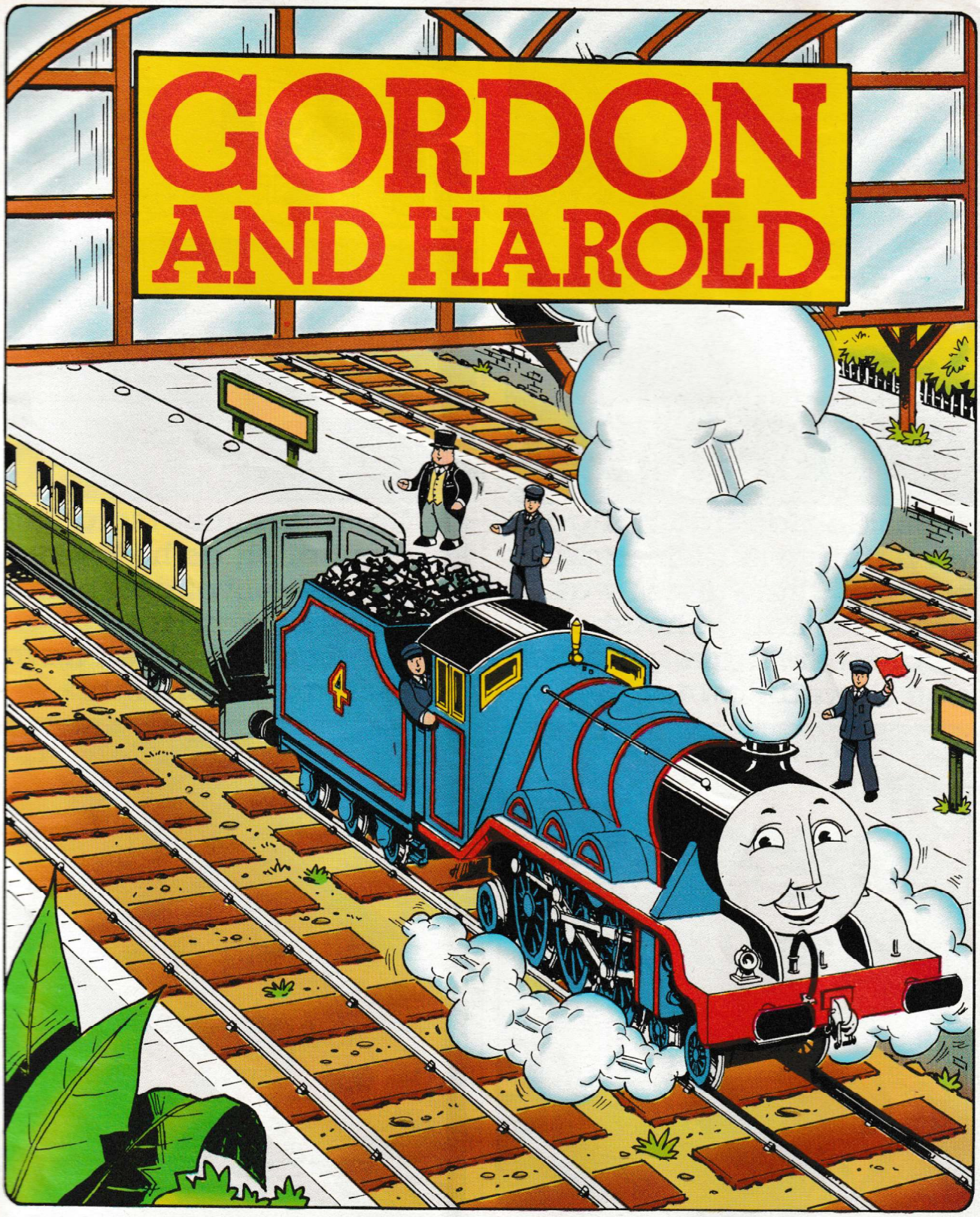
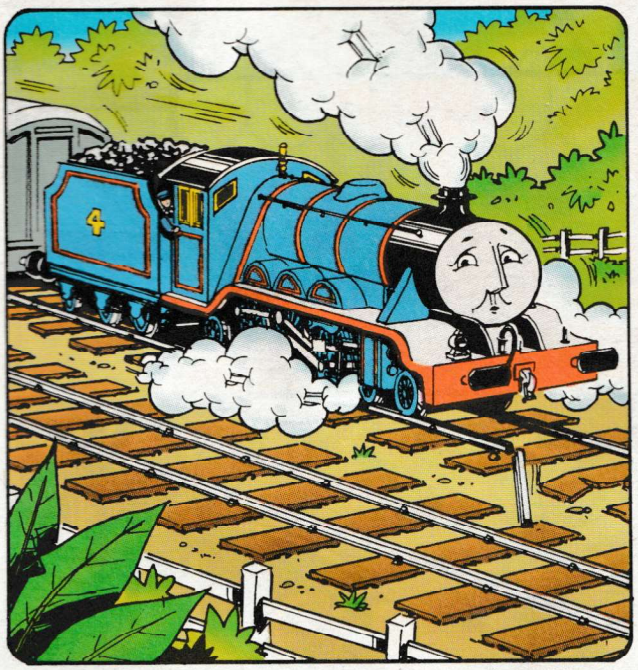
ABC

A listen and look story!

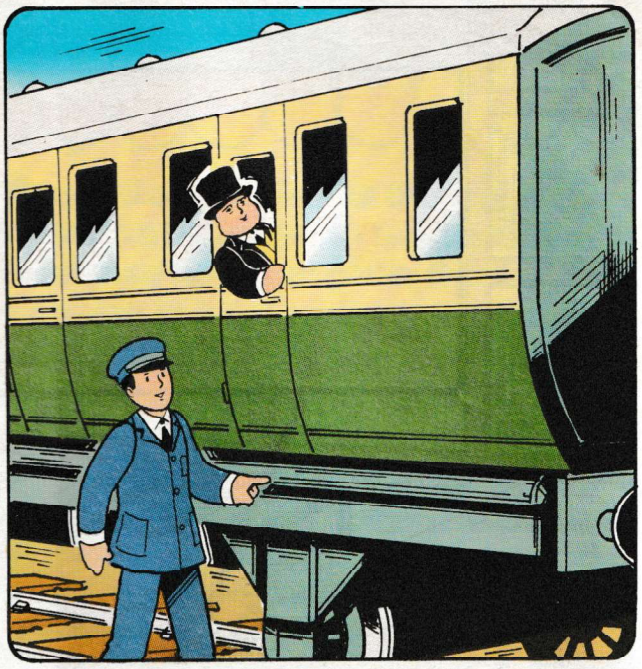


1. It was an exciting day on the Island of Sodor. The Mayor was to open a school fête near the Main Station. The Fat Controller had asked Gordon to collect him.

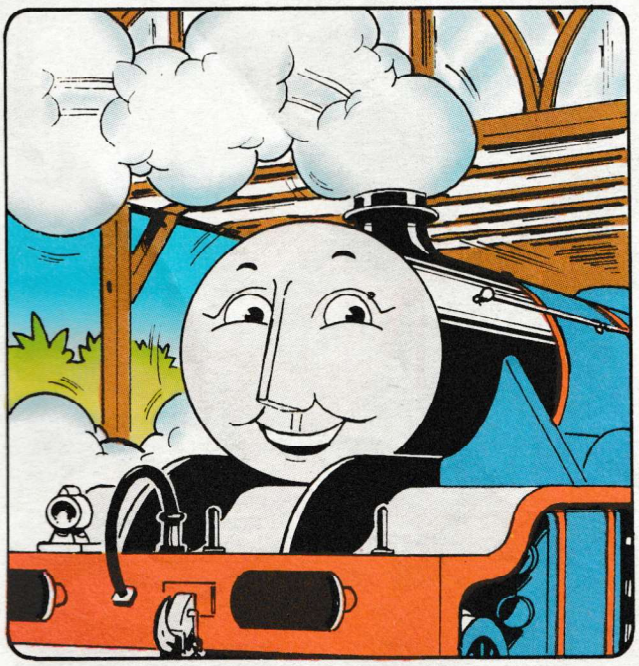
2. "I was picked because I am the most important engine!" said Gordon. The Fat Controller went to meet the Mayor and welcome him aboard the special train.



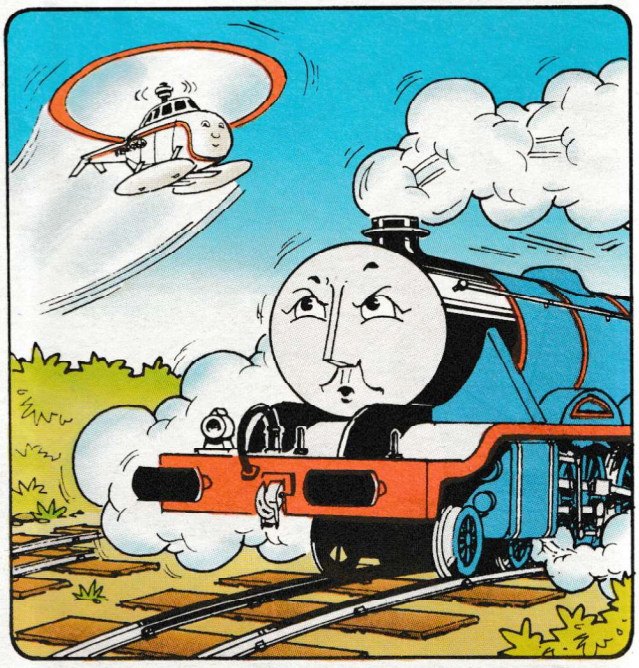
3. But Gordon had not gone very far when his driver noticed that there was a broken rail ahead. He applied the brakes and Gordon slowed down.



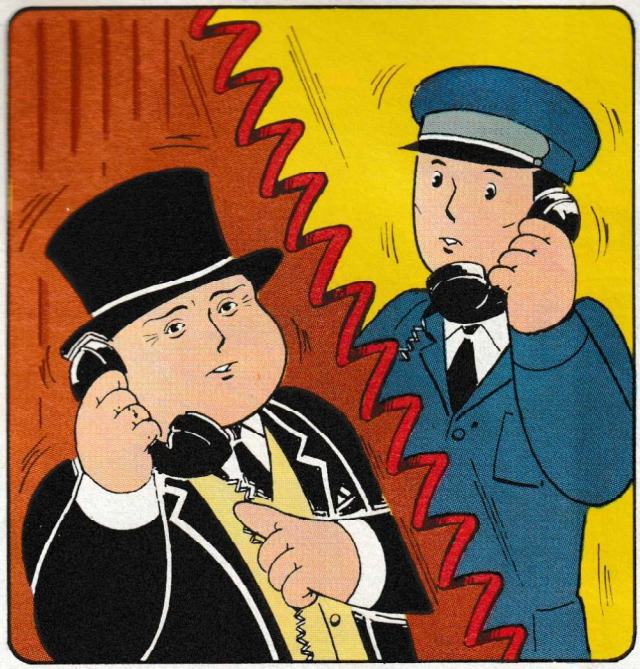
4. "Goodness me!" said the Fat Controller, as he looked out of the window and saw the broken rail. "Well done, Gordon! You have prevented an accident."



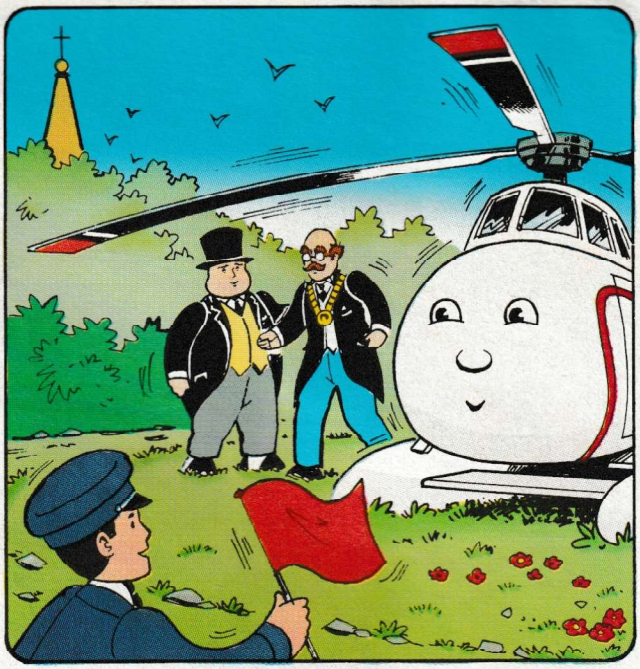
5. "Thank you, sir," said Gordon. "But we cannot collect the Mayor now!" "We must return to the Main Station," announced the Fat Controller.



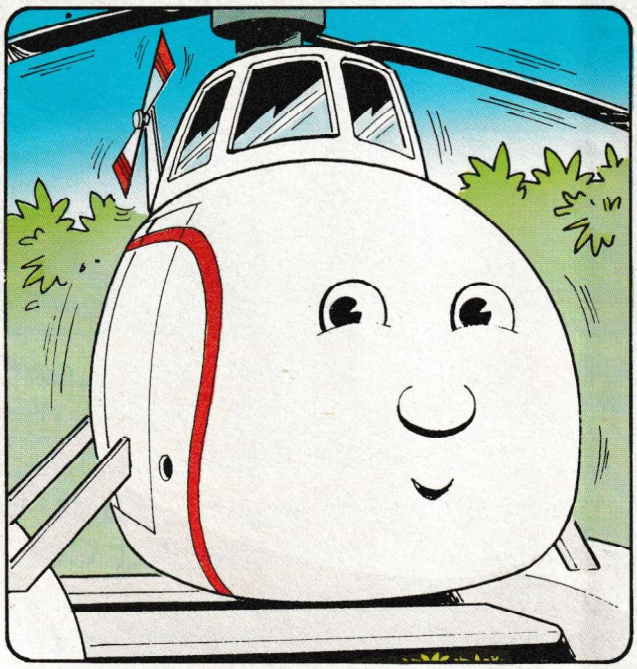
6. At the Main Station, the Fat Controller decided to collect the Mayor in Harold the Helicopter instead. Gordon was sent back to the broken line with some workmen.



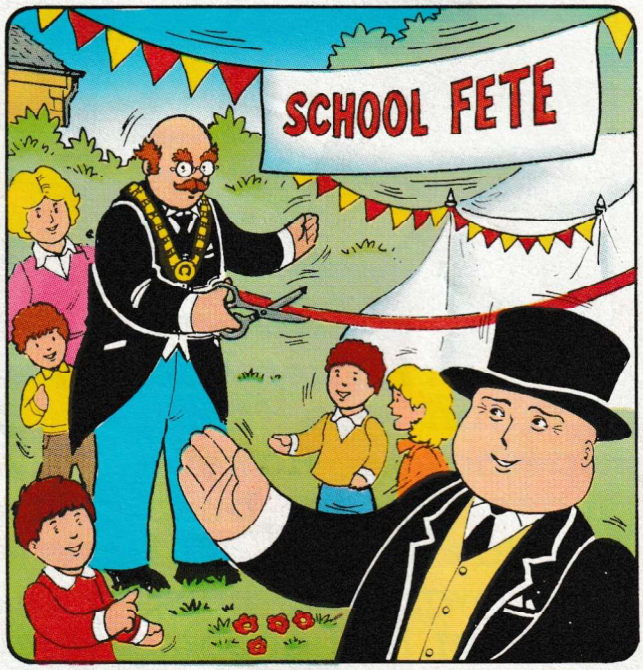
7. The Fat Controller telephoned the Stationmaster. "Please tell the Mayor that I will be arriving with Harold the Helicopter very soon," he said.



8. Harold the Helicopter brought the Mayor and the Fat Controller to the village green. The Mayor was very impressed indeed with Harold's flight.



9. Soon, all the Fat Controller's engines had heard about the broken rail. "Helicopters don't need rails to run on," said Harold. "We are much more modern than trains!"



10. The children enjoyed seeing the Mayor, they cheered and cheered. "I declare the fête open!" said the Mayor, cutting a big ribbon tied to the school gates.

11. The children had lots of fun on the stalls and sideshows. However, the mayor was too busy to stay all day. "I must get back to the Town Hall," he said. The weather had become quite dull and foggy. It was not safe for Harold the Helicopter to fly. "I can't see where I'm going in fog!" he said.

12. Right at that moment, Gordon returned with the workmen. "The line has been mended," he said. "That is splendid," said the Fat Controller. Gordon was very pleased. "I can get about in fog, thanks to all the signals along the line," he told Harold the Helicopter. "We engines are just as modern and useful as helicopters!"

THE END

In our next issue: Summer sneezes!

COMPETITION

SPLENDID PRIZES TO BE WON!

We are offering you another chance to win one of the following super prizes from ERTL (UK) Ltd:

1ST PRIZE:
24 **Thomas the Tank remote control** engines to be won!

2ND PRIZE:
24 smart **Thomas**, **James** and **Henry** 3-piece sets to be won!

3RD PRIZE:
48 splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine** diecast models to be won!

How to enter:
Carefully study the splendid picture on this page. James has been working very hard in the Big Harbour yard. Some fish have escaped from their baskets. There are five fishes in the picture. Carefully put a circle around each of them and send this page to:
Thomas/ERTL Counting Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2.

Name .....
Age .....**Address** .....
.....
.....
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Closing date:
26th October 1991.

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Thomas flies a Kite!

One day, Thomas was returning from his branch line, when he noticed something rising up into the sky close by. Suddenly, it disappeared as it fell to the ground behind some trucks.

"Cinders and ashes!" gasped Thomas, in surprise. "Whatever was that?"

As he pulled up in the yard by the Main Station, he saw the Fat Controller's children, Stephen and Bridget.

"Hello, Thomas!" they called. Stephen and Bridget had come to stay for a holiday.

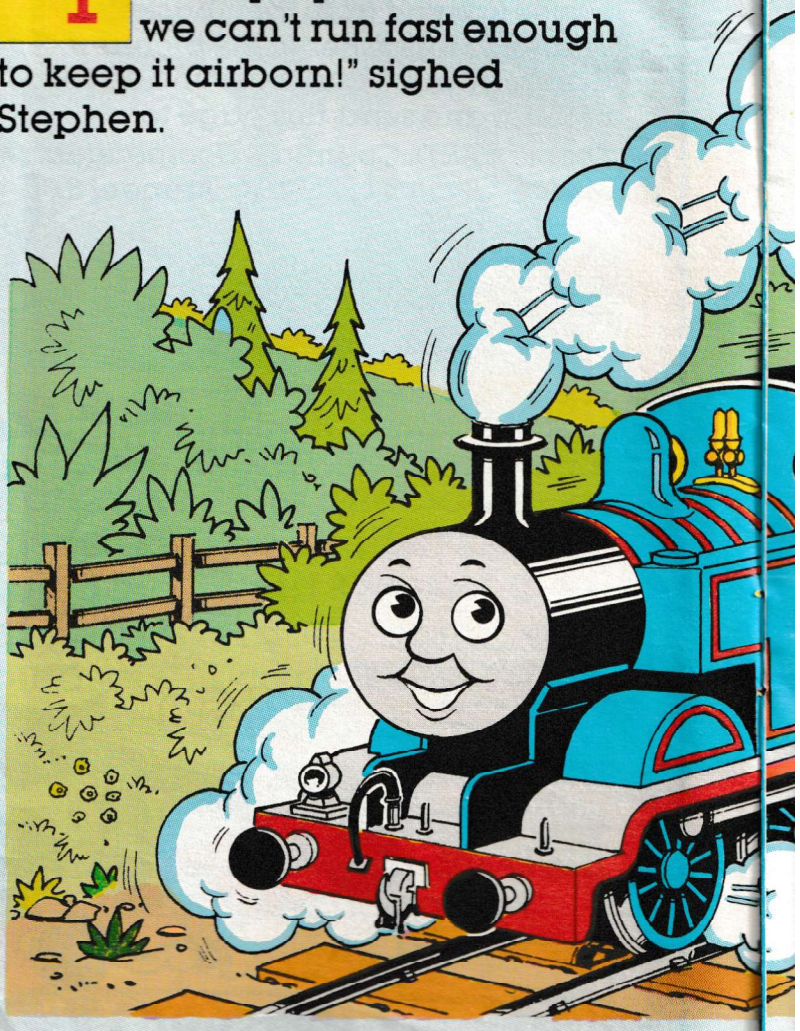
Thomas was pleased to see the children. He was interested to see that they were carrying something which was very brightly coloured and had a long tail of string.

"We've been trying to fly our kite," said Stephen. "But it won't stay in the air for long!"

Thomas watched as Bridget took the kite to a field close to the station. She held one end of the string and ran along as fast as she could. Behind her, the kite lifted off the ground and, for a moment, rose above her head.

"Quickly! Let out some more string!" called Stephen. But it was too late! The kite dipped, then dived to the ground.

"There's not enough wind to help fly our kite. And we can't run fast enough to keep it airborn!" sighed Stephen.



"If there is lots of string, Thomas may be able to fly the kite," suggested Thomas's driver.

The driver secured the string to Thomas's cab.

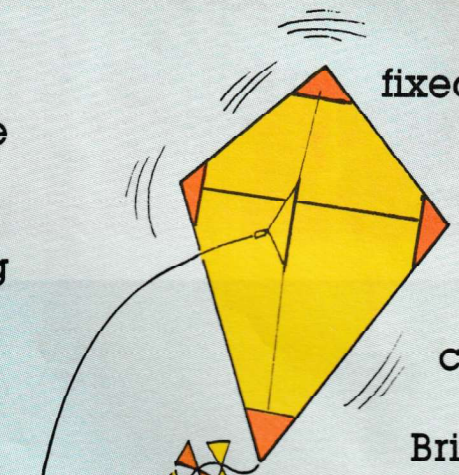
"Can we ride with Thomas? asked Stephen and Bridget excitedly.

"I'll have to ask the Fat Controller," smiled the driver.

The Fat Controler thought it was a splendid idea and decided to travel with the children.

Thomas pulled carefully out of the yard and was soon out in the countryside.

As Thomas went faster and faster, the kite flew higher and higher, its string still fixed to Thomas's cab. The kite twisted and turned in the sky, like a bright, colourful bird. Stephen and Bridget pointed in delight through Clarabel's window as they watched the kite soaring in the sky on its long string.



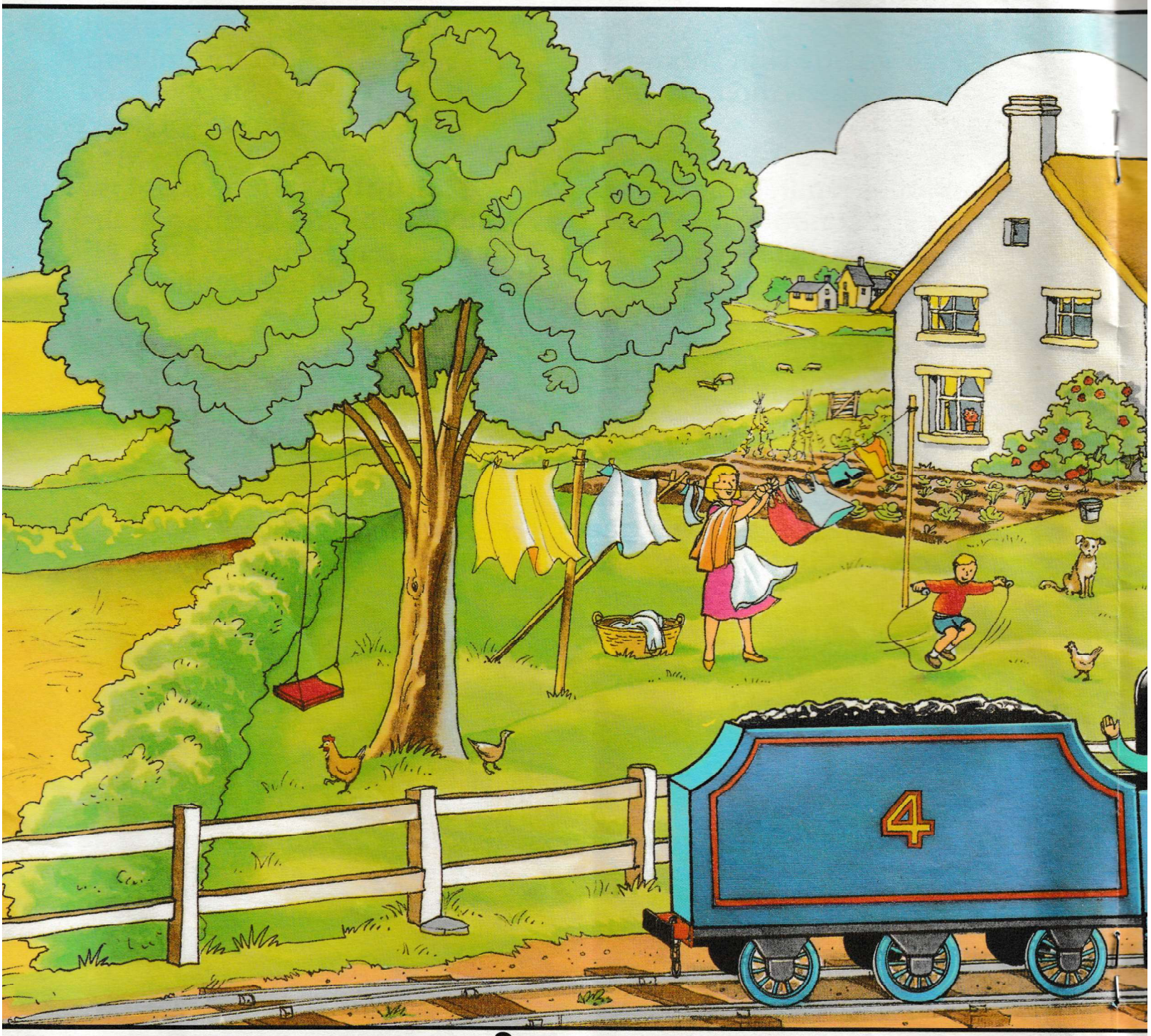
kite

"Clever Thomas!" shouted Stephen.

"You're really good at kite-flying, Thomas," added Bridget, "because you can run much faster than us!"

THE END

Past the farm



Which engine can you see?

What colour is he?

Point to the farmer's house!

Can you see the farm buildings?

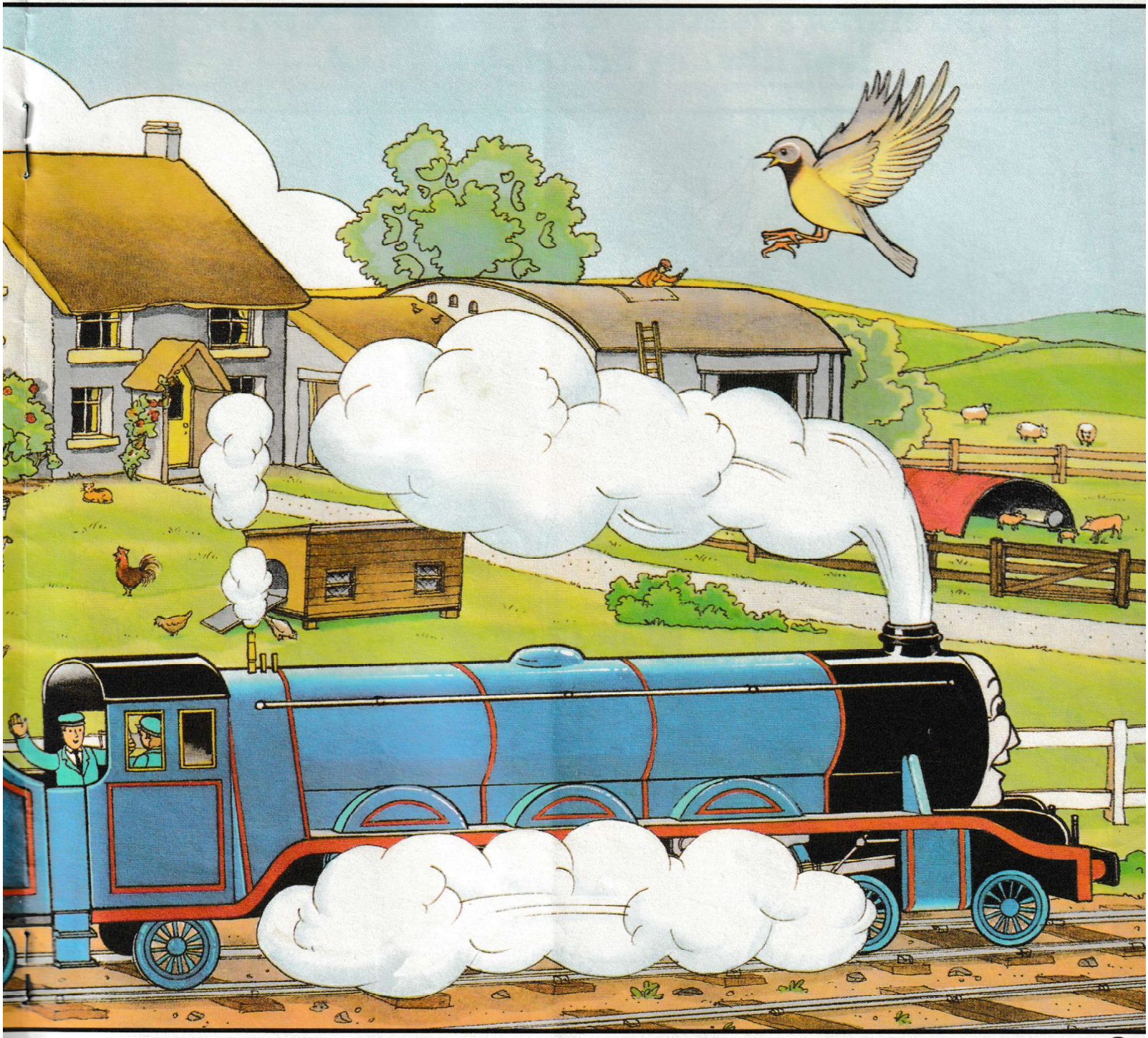
Point to the swin

Can you see the

How many sheep

Can you see the

mer's house!



wing!

he chicken coop?

eep can you count?

he pig sty?

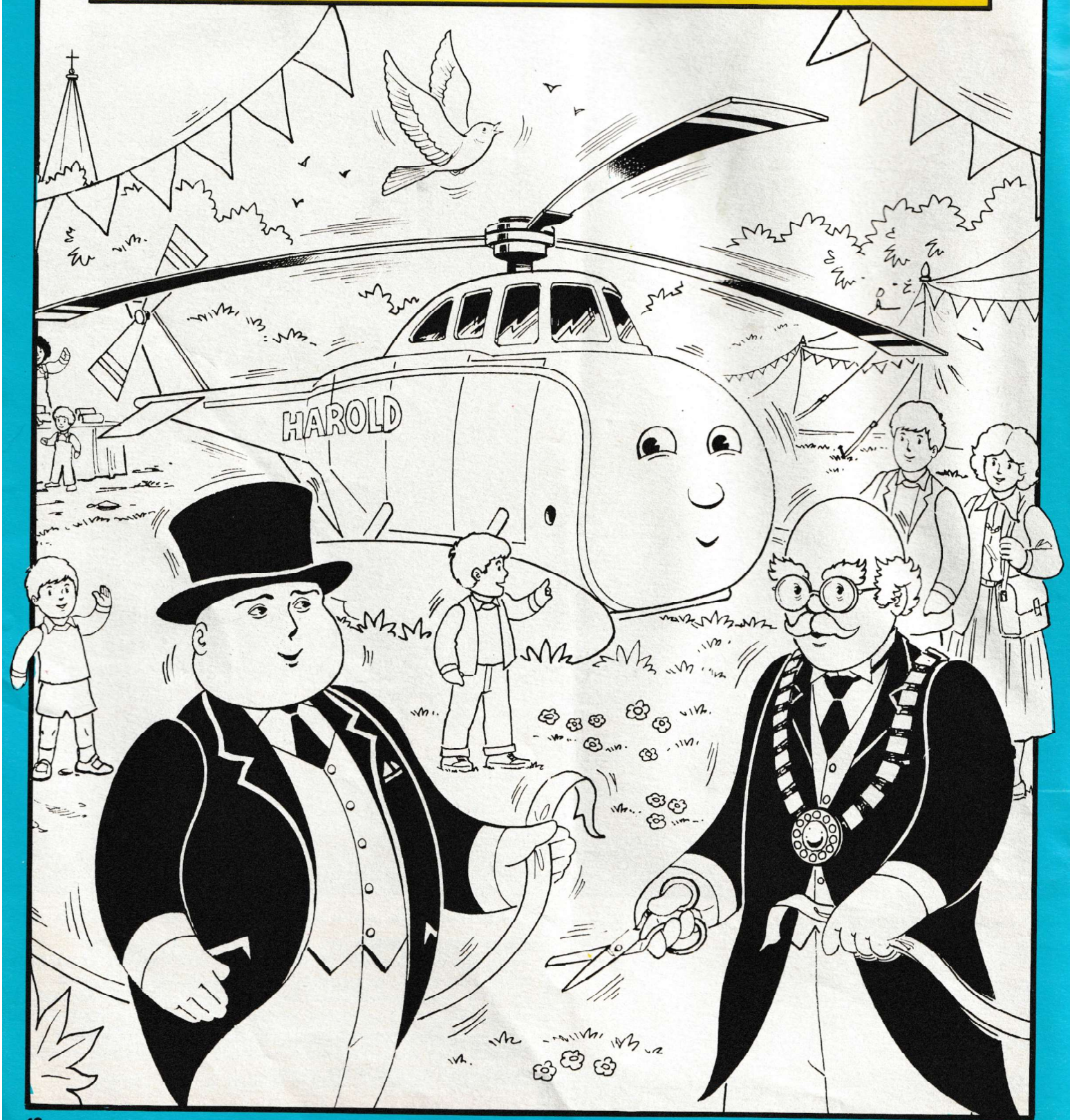
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Past the farm buildings!

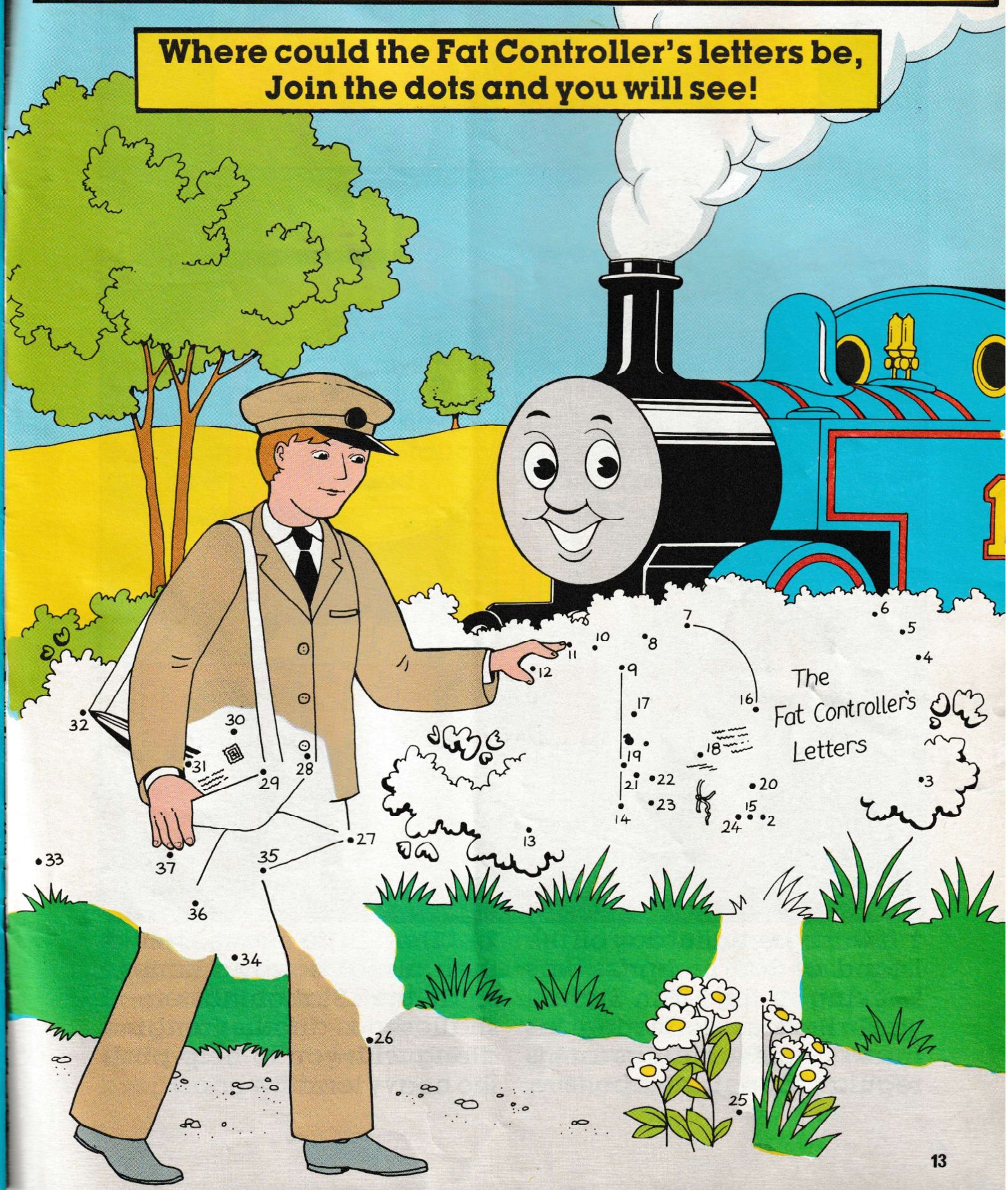
COLOURING TIME!

**The Fat Controller has opened the fête for you,
So colour him in and all his friends too!**

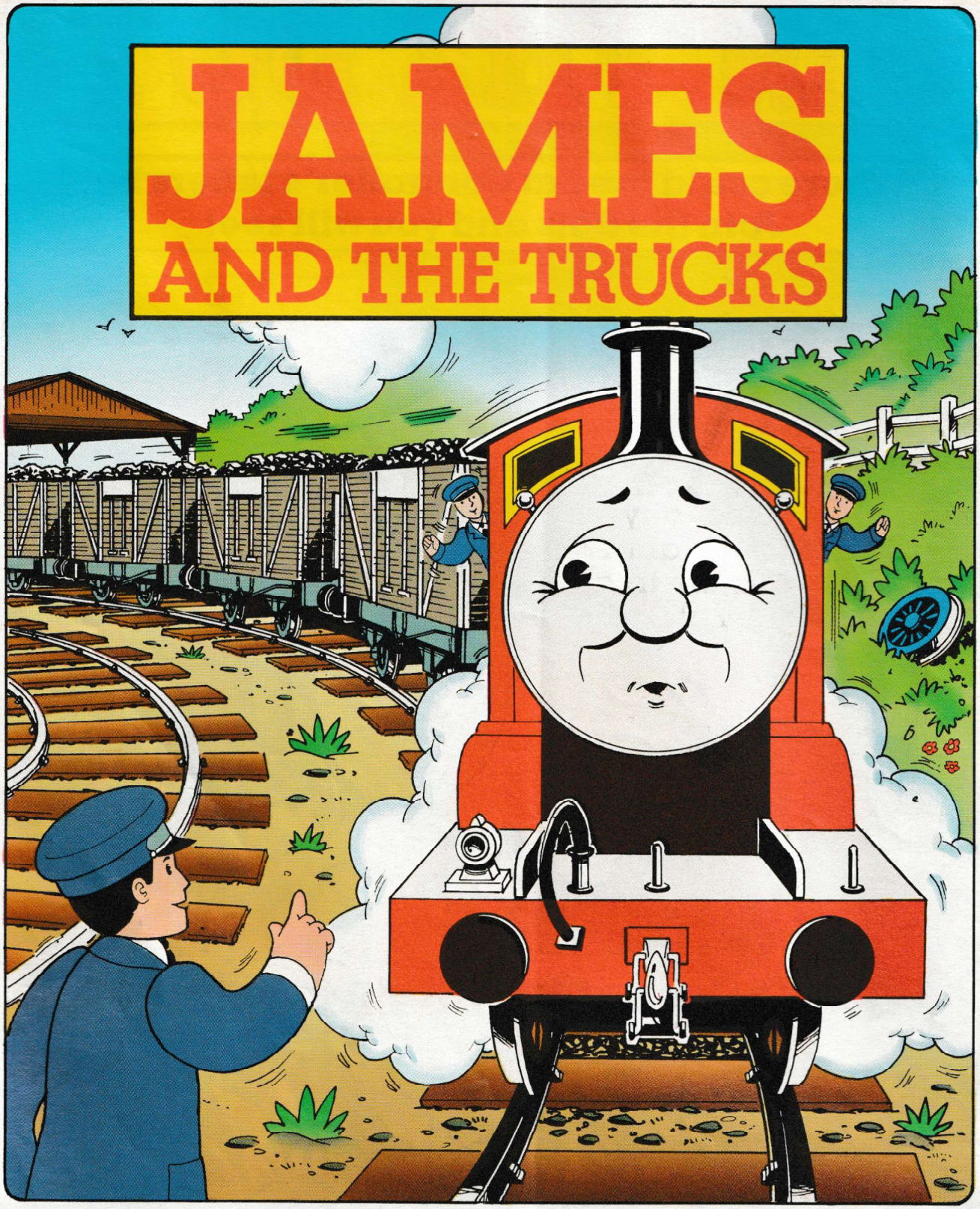


JOIN THE DOTS!

Where could the Fat Controller's letters be,
Join the dots and you will see!

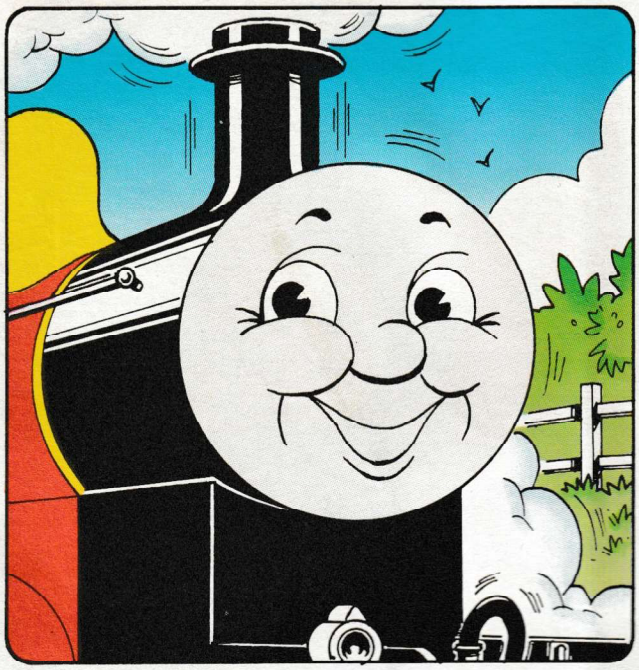


A listen and look story!

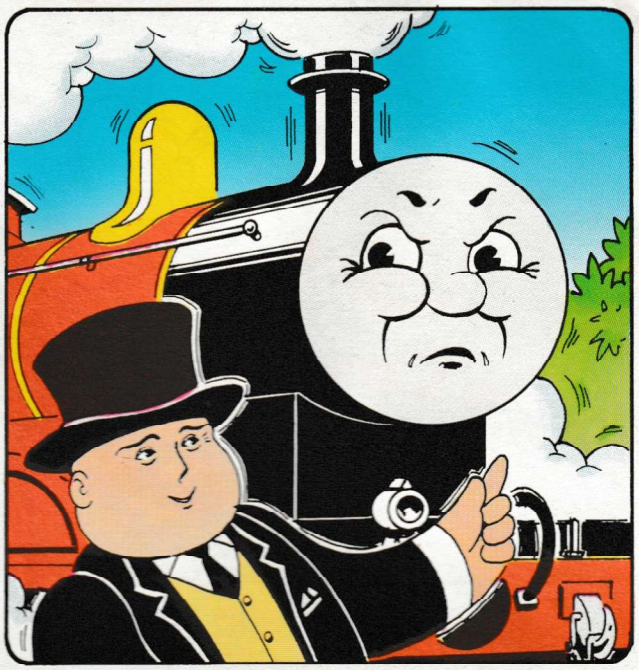


1. It was a beautiful day on the Island of Sodor. James was working in the Main Station yard. He was collecting his trucks from the sidings for his regular goods train.

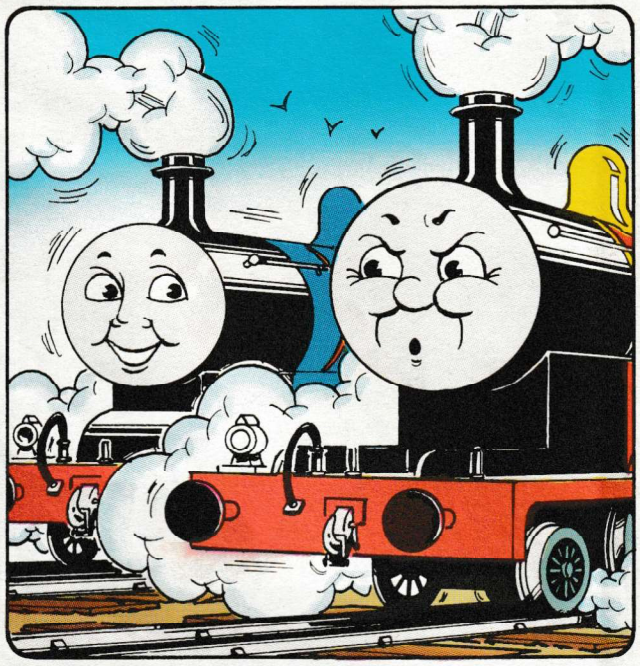
2. "There are more trucks than usual today, James," said the Stationmaster. "I shall send another engine along with you to help push the heavy load."



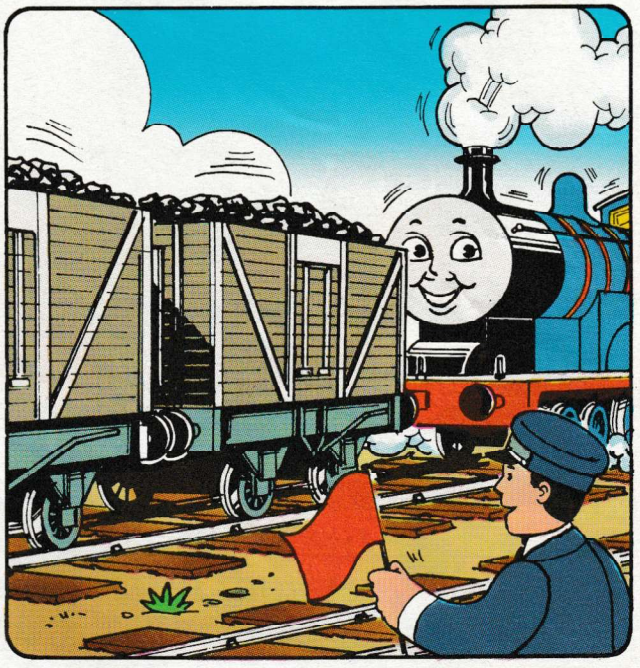
3. "I don't need any help!" puffed James. "I am strong enough to pull the trucks all by myself!" The Fat Controller didn't agree. "The Station-master is right," he said.



4. "There are too many trucks for one engine to pull over Gordon's Hill," continued the Fat Controller. So Edward was coupled up to the back of James's trucks.

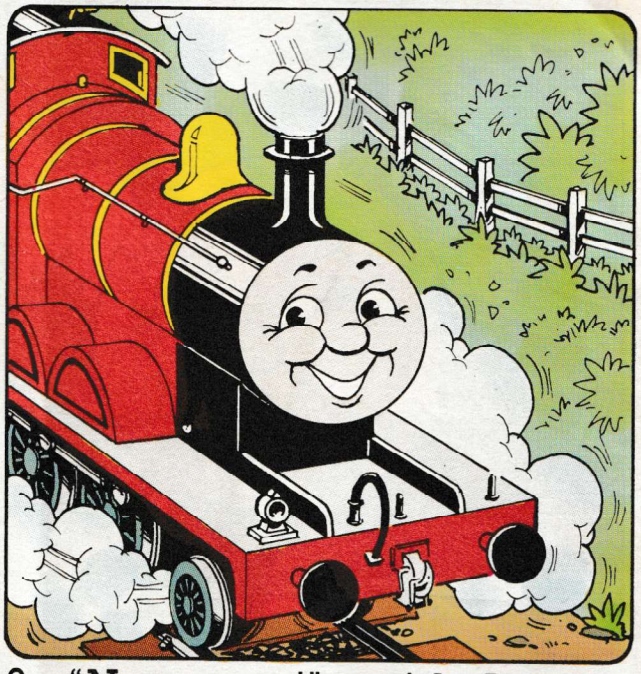


5. James didn't like the idea of Edward pushing at the back of his train. "Don't hold me back now!" he shouted to Edward. "You will have to keep pace with me!"

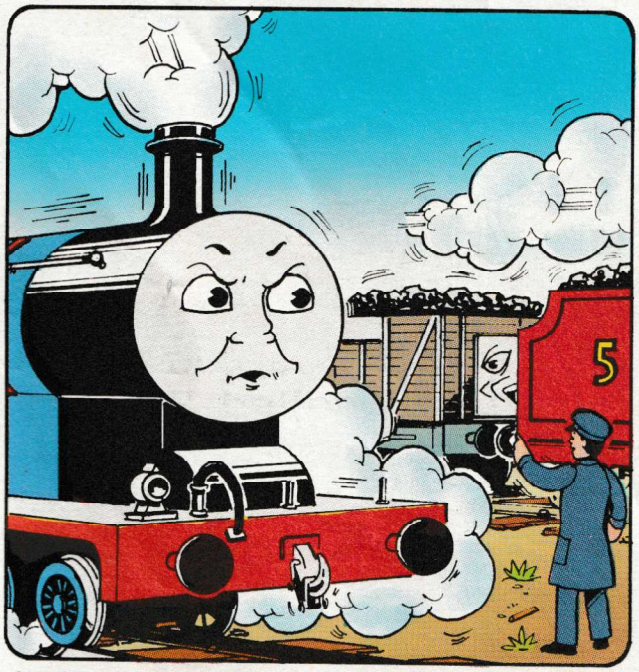


6. Edward laughed. "Very well, James! Off you go!" "Peep! Peep!" whistled James, as he pulled away. James pulled while Edward pushed from behind.

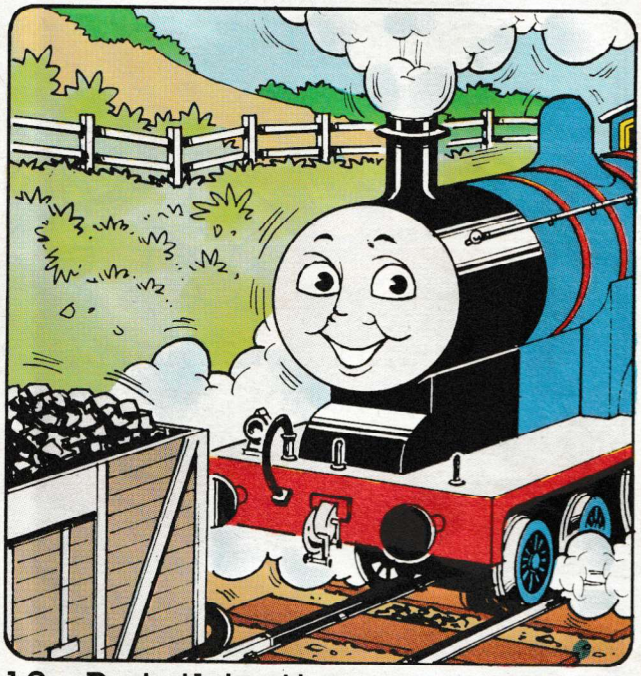
7. The two engines picked up speed and raced up and over Gordon's Hill. "I did it!" called James proudly. "Pip, peep! **We** did it!" whistled Edward from behind.



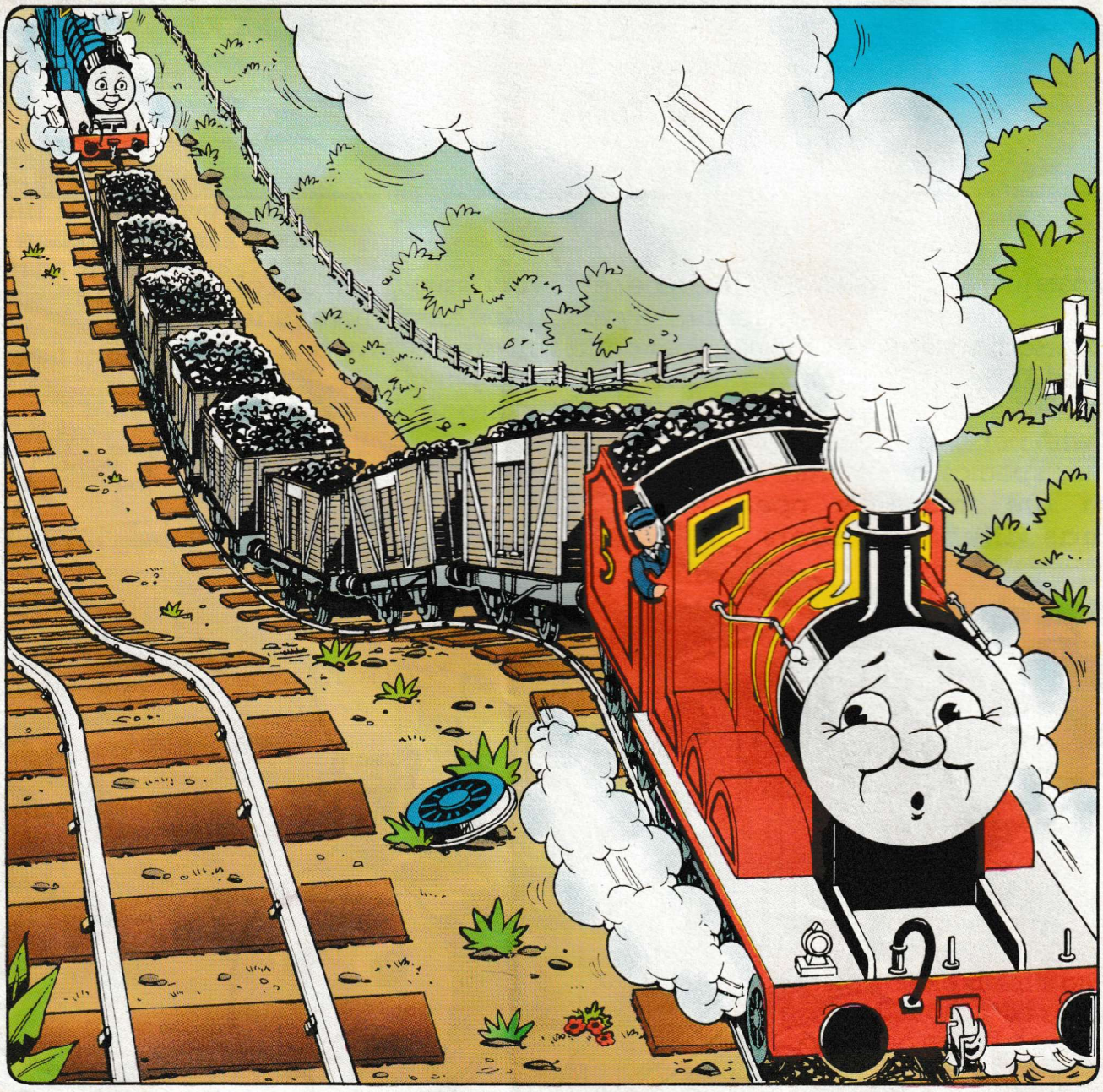
8. "Nonsense!" said James. "You weren't really helping at the back, Edward!" James sang cheekily all the way back to the Harbour Yard, "I did it myself! I did it myself!"



9. When James and Edward arrived with the train, the Stationmaster was very pleased. He arranged for extra trucks to be taken back to the Main Station Yard.



10. But this time, when the train was due to leave, Edward was not coupled to the back. "Do come along, Edward!" said James. "You must push harder!"



11. James did not realise that Edward was not pushing, and as he made his way up Gordon's Hill he went slower and slower. In the end, the trucks felt so heavy that James had to stop! "Edward!" cried James. "You're holding me back! I can't go on!" "Nonsense!" called Edward, who was further down the track.

12. "I'm not coupled up to your train!" called Edward. "I thought you didn't need help anyway!" "I'm sorry, Edward," puffed James. "I can't pull these trucks on my own. Please will you help me?" "Alright," said Edward, kindly, as he moved into position and pushed from behind. James didn't boast for the rest of the day!

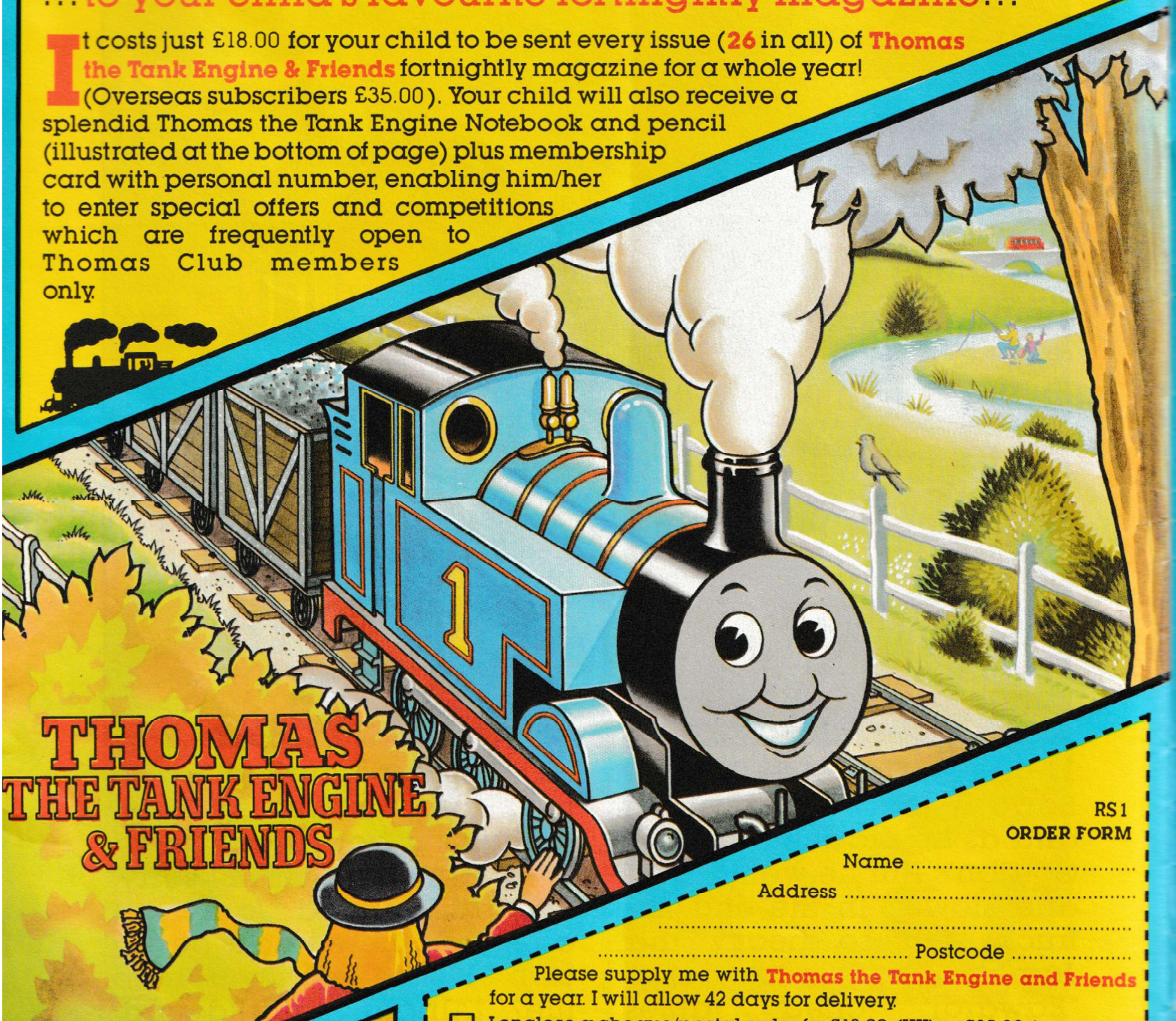
THE END

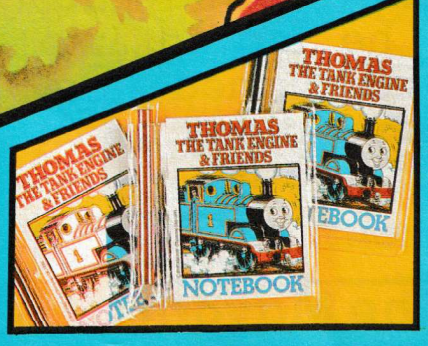
In our next issue: A picture for the Mayor!

Subscribe...

...to your child's favourite fortnightly magazine...

It costs just £18.00 for your child to be sent every issue (**26** in all) of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine for a whole year! (Overseas subscribers £35.00). Your child will also receive a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and pencil (illustrated at the bottom of page) plus membership card with personal number, enabling him/her to enter special offers and competitions which are frequently open to Thomas Club members only.





RS1
ORDER FORM

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Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Please supply me with **Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends** for a year. I will allow 42 days for delivery.

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £18.00 (UK) or £35.00 (overseas) payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.

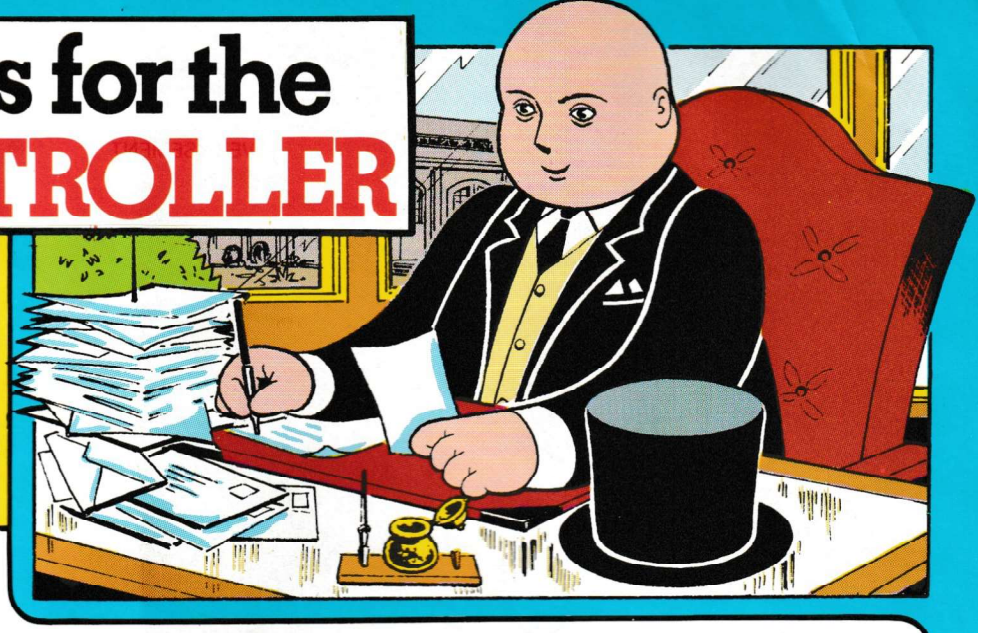
☐ Please charge £18.00 (UK) or £35.00 (overseas) to my Visa/Master card. My card number is; (13 or 16 digits):

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Signature ..... Expiry date .....

Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

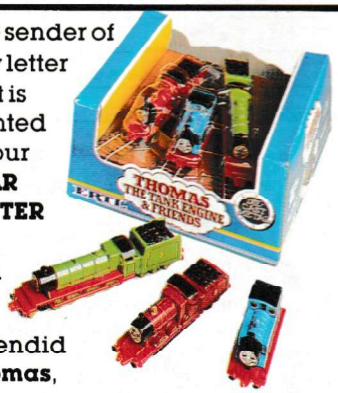
Dear Fat Controller,
Me and my sister love watching your engines going up and down the branch line. I like all your engines except Diesel when he bullies the others! When the engines become cheeky with each other, I know they don't really mean it!

Love from **Keith McDonald,** aged 7.

I am glad you enjoy watching the adventures that happen on the Island of Sodor. Diesel can be very naughty but he can be useful as well!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas, James** and **Henry 3-piece diecast set** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



DARK TUNNELS!

Dear Fat Controller,
I love to watch Thomas the Tank Engine with my little brother, John. Can you tell us if Thomas and his friends like to go through dark tunnels?

Love from **Heather,** aged 4.

Most of my engines are well equipped to go through tunnels. Occasionally, some of my younger engines do become more frightened if they have to stop inside a tunnel because it is dark, but I always make sure that there are engines waiting nearby if they need any help!

TICKLY ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I went to see Thomas the Tank Engine and I saw an engine that could talk! It said 'Stop tickling my buffers!'

Love from **Robert,** aged 3.

Good Heavens! You must be very careful not to tickle the engines especially if they have really important jobs to do!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ross Greetham (31448), Sam Jonathan Gale, Richard Evans, Joseph Thomas Hewitt (30964), Ian Bailey, Nicholas Eccles (35153), Omar Kyan (31831), Rachel Donna Short (31341), Stephen Matthews (36829), Carl Lee Harrison, Craig Jeffries (34437), Stephen Elliot, Davydd Juliff (35452), William Beer, Adam Nelson, Owen Wyn Roberts (29178), Danielle Alexandra Marcon (35978), William Crook, Richard White, Rachel Amy Fletcher, Stuart Urquhart (34834).

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

The secret to helping your child learn at home

When my first child, Ben, started to show an interest in books, I thought it a good time to help him learn to read. I had always assumed it would be easy to get advice – after all, so many official surveys have proved that children whose parents help them at home do better at school.

I went to our local library and was astonished to find that they didn't stock a single book on how to teach a child to read!

This happened three years ago and Ben is now at school. But his four-year-old sister Sophie is now starting to show an interest in learning and I'd really like to help her at home.

It made me realise that there are lots more things I could be doing with Sophie to improve her abilities.

No wonder, then, that an article in the Daily Telegraph caught my eye, recommending a new publication for parents called **Right Start.** The magazine had been launched to give parents of three- to six-year-olds advice and back-up on how to give their children the best start in education.

Would this contain the information I had been looking for? I was immediately impressed with the contents. Not the dull 'educational looking' publication I had expected, but a bright, colourful magazine which presented information in a very lively way.

The **Right Start** pack includes a high quality activity book which is packed with educational activities for three- to six-year-olds. They are introduced to reading, writing and numbers, as well as science and music. The book is actually a very subtle way to get inquisitive young minds interested in early learning. The activities are carefully graded and revolve around the adventures of animal characters who live in the village of Muddy Bottom. All my children loved it!

The parents' magazine manages to include an impressive amount of information. I was fascinated to read the feature "Discover your child's potential" as it made me realise that there are lots more things I could be doing with Sophie to improve her abilities! I also enjoyed "Countdown", which explained the right way to introduce you child to numbers.

And there at last was the information I had been looking for on teaching your child to read. I had read bits on the subject in other magazines, but never in the depth that **Right Start** covered it.

There at last was the information I had been looking for on teaching your child to read.

I shall continue to buy **Right Start** – it's excellent value for money. I only wish it had been published three years ago when Ben was small.

Lucy Brown,
Lightwater,
Surrey

Free starter pack

"I was struck by its content. There's information about the different methods of teaching a child to read, about how children begin to tackle basic mathematical concepts, about how to choose a school ... puzzles and activities for children, book and toy reviews, and 'Ask the experts'."
Dr Jane French, Daily Telegraph

Free pack!

YOUR FREE PACK CONTAINS:

1. Right Start magazine for *you*
2. Activity book for your child, *linked to ...*
3. Nursery rhyme and story cassette
4. Sturdy keepsake folder
5. Crayola colouring pencils

Right Start is published every two months. Use this coupon to request your free starter pack. It's a FREEPOST address so you don't need a stamp. Due to the weight, your free activity book and cassette may be sent under separate cover.

SEND NO MONEY, NO STAMP NEEDED

To: Right Start magazine, FREEPOST, Romford RM6 1BR.

Yes please send me my Right Start pack free. I understand you will delay my payment for one month. If I do not wish to subscribe, I will write to my bank and cancel my order. All the material I have received is mine to keep.

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To _____ (name of bank)

Branch code _____

Acct no _____

Acct in the name of _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Standing order

Please pay to the order of Right Start magazine, account no 08666822 at National Westminster Bank plc, Holborn Circus 56 00 20, the sum of £5.85 *one month from the date received* and half yearly thereafter, being my subscription to Right Start, and debit my/our account accordingly until countermanded by me in writing.

I JGM

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